

What is Kerbcraft?

Kerbcraft is a pedestrian training scheme for 5 – 7 Year olds which is normally taught over a 12 week period in school. The aim of Kerbcraft is to teach children pedestrian skills using practical measures rather than classroom based lessons. Training is progressive, with each phase building on the foundation laid by earlier phases. All require practical training at the roadside if children are to acquire these skills properly.

Kerbcraft is divided in to three sections:

Recognising safe versus dangerous roadside locations

Crossing safely at parked cars

Crossing safely near junctions

These skills can be taught whilst you are out walking with your child. The information has been broken down in to the three phases – each phase takes a few sessions to train and builds on the previous session. Do not rush any phase and allow your child to practice the skill learnt in each session until you are confident that they understand what you have taught them.

The skills to be trained

Recognising safe versus dangerous roadside locations

Many roadside locations are intrinsically dangerous, e.g. beside parked vehicles, sharp bends, brows of hills, intersections, etc. Recognising such dangers and learning how to construct routes that avoid them is one of the first skills that children must learn. Children under 9 years are very poor at this and frequently choose to cross at dangerous locations.

Crossing safely at parked cars

Crossing the road adjacent to a parked vehicle is particularly dangerous for small children as they are less visible to drivers than adults, and because they do not know how to deal safely with parked vehicles. In the first part of the programme children are taught to understand what it is about obstructions like parked cars that makes them dangerous. In the second part, they are taught a systematic strategy that can be used to cross safely at parked vehicles in those cases where avoiding them is impossible.

Crossing safely near junctions

Like parked vehicles, intersections are also associated with many accidents involving young children. The third phase of training builds on the preceding phases by introducing children to the problems of crossing near different kinds of junction.

It is important to remember that children do copy our behavior so when crossing the road with your children always try to model the correct crossing procedure.